Transitional Pharmacy Benefit (TPB) Phase I

RELEASE NOTES

SD*5.3*300
PSO*7*145

August 2003

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1. Introduction

In recent years, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has faced a large increase in the demand for health care services, and has often been unable to provide all veterans with health care services in a timely manner. In many places, that means the veterans must wait a considerable length of time to receive an initial primary care visit. In an effort to ease the burden on these veterans, VA will provide a new, temporary prescription benefit called the VA Transitional Pharmacy Benefit (TPB) to veterans on waiting lists that have valid prescriptions from their non-VA physicians.

The details of this temporary benefit are contained in Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive 2003-047. The intent of this benefit is to:
1) Relieve the financial burdens arising from prescription expenses for patients who are unable to access their initial primary care in a timely fashion,
2) Defer the demand for primary care appointments over the short term, and
3) Allow some veterans without health care to have access to VA comprehensive health.

The release notes provide a brief description of the new features and functions of the TPB project, Phase I, which is provided as a master build including patches SD*5.3*300 and PSO*7*145.

This master build can only be run with a standard M operating system. It also requires the following VA software packages:

Package	Minimum Version Needed
Outpatient Pharmacy (OP)	7.0
VA FileMan	22.0
Kernel	8.0
Scheduling	5.3
MailMan	8.0

The above software is not included in this master build and must be installed before this build is completely functional.

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2. Transitional Pharmacy Benefit

The new features, functions, and enhancements of the TPB stand-alone options are grouped and discussed below.

2.1. Overview

Phase I provides the functionality to identify the group of veterans eligible for this benefit at each facility, provides reports of these identified veterans, print letters to send to each veteran, and an option to manually add veterans to the TPB Eligibility file (#52.91).

2.2. New Features, Functions and Enhancements

Stand-Alone Options

The following new options provide the functionality to support the TPB project:

TPB Letters:

- Each eligible patient will receive a letter informing him or her that they are eligible for this benefit. The *TPB Institution Letter Enter/Edit* [PSO TPB INSTITUTION LETTERS] option allows each site to personalize institution information that will print on all the veteran letters, such as the address that the veteran will use to return the forms, TPB contact phone number(s), and Director Signature lines.

- The *Report TPB Patients Letters Printed/NOT Printed* [PSO TPB LETTERS PRINTED REPORT] option allows the user to print a report of patients that have had a letter printed, as well as those patients that did not have a letter printed. The report also provides the user with a summary report of a count of the letters printed by institution.

- The *Print TPB Patient Letter(s)* [PSO TPB PRINT LETTERS] option provides the user the ability to print the TPB patient letters.

TPB Patient:

- The *Transitional Pharmacy Benefit Patient Enter/Edit* [PSO TPB PATIENT ENTER/EDIT] option allows the user to enter patients manually and/or inquire on existing patients in the TPB ELIGIBILITY file (#52.91).

- The *TPB Patient Report* [PSO TPB PATIENT REPORT] option provides a list of patients who are eligible for this benefit as well as those that are ineligible.

2.3. Files and Fields

This section contains new files and fields.

New Files

- A new file called TPB ELIGIBILITY file (#52.91) stores data of patients who are eligible for this new benefit. It is auto-populated based on specific criteria obtained from the Electronic Wait List (EWL)/Scheduling/Pharmacy extract. Patients will either be entered into the file as eligible, or ineligible. If they are entered into the file as ineligible, an exclusion reason will also be entered into the file.

- A new file called TPB INSTITUTION LETTERS file (#52.92) stores details of the institution that will be used in the heading, body and closing sections of the veteran letters.

Using these two new files, eligible patients will receive a letter informing him or her that they are eligible for this benefit.

New Fields

TPB ELIGIBLITY file (#52.91):

This file is originally created through the EWL/Scheduling/Pharmacy extract algorithm, which performs the logic of determining a patient's TPB eligibility.

- **PATIENT**
This field identifies the TPB patient.

- **DATE PHARMACY BENEFIT BEGAN**
This field identifies the date TPB pharmacy benefit began.

- **INACTIVATION OF BENEFIT DATE**
This field identifies the date when the TPB pharmacy benefit ends.

- **INACTIVATION REASON CODE**
This field identifies the reason the TPB pharmacy benefit was inactivated.

- **DESIRED APPOINTMENT DATE**
This field identifies the desired appointment date, which is obtained via the EWL/Scheduling extract algorithm.

- **WAIT TYPE**
The wait type identifies how the patient was added to the TPB ELIGIBILITY file (#52.91), either via the EWL/Scheduling extract or manually.

- **STATION NUMBER**
This field identifies the station number for the institution associated with the TPB patient.

- **INSTITUTION**
This field identifies the institution associated with the TPB patient.

- **EXCLUSION REASON** Code
This field identifies the reason the patient was automatically excluded from the TPB pharmacy benefit.

- **PRIMARY CARE SCHEDULE APT DATE**
This field identifies the date in which the patient has a primary care appointment scheduled and is obtained via the Scheduling extract.

- **RX#**
This field identifies the prescription number of the prescription for the TPB patient who has been excluded from the benefit because of previously filled prescriptions.

- **DATE LETTER PRINTED**
This field identifies the most recent printed date for the TPB veteran letter.

TPB INSTITUTION LETTERS file (#52.92)

This file contains the local facility information that is used in printing TPB letters to patients. This file is based on institutions associated with patients in the TPB ELIGIBILITY file (#52.91).

- **INSTITUTION**
This field identifies the institution associated with TPB patients.

- **PARENT INSTITUTION**
This field identifies the parent institution associated with TPB institutions.

- **TPB CONTACT PHONE 1**
This field identifies a primary contact number and prints in the body of the TPB veteran letter.

- **TPB CONTACT PHONE 2**
This field identifies a secondary contact number and prints in the body of the TPB veteran letter.

- **ADDRESS LINE 1**
This field identifies the first address line of the physical location of the institution and prints in the heading of the TPB veteran letters.

- **ADDRESS LINE 2**

This field identifies the second address line of the physical location of the institution and prints in the heading of the TPB veteran letters.

- **CITY**

This field identifies the city of the physical location of the institution and prints in the heading of the TPB veteran letters.

- **STATE**

This field identifies the state of the physical location of the institution and prints in the heading of the TPB veteran letters.

- **ZIP CODE**

This field identifies the zip code of the physical location of the institution and prints in the heading of the TPB veteran letters.

- **ADDRESS LINE 1 (MAILING)**

This field identifies the address line 1 of the mailing location of the institution and prints in the body of the TPB veteran letters.

- **ADDRESS LINE 2 (MAILING)**

This field identifies the address line 2 of the mailing location of the institution and prints in the body of the TPB veteran letters.

- **CITY (MAILING)**

This field identifies the city of the mailing location of the institution and prints in the body of the TPB veteran letters.

- **STATE (MAILING)**

This field identifies the state of the mailing location of the institution and prints in the body of the TPB veteran letters.

- **ZIP CODE (MAILING)**

This field identifies the zip code of the mailing location of the institution and prints in the body of the TPB veteran letters.

- **DIRECTORS SIG LINE 1**

This field identifies Director information and prints in the closing section of the letter.

- **DIRECTORS SIG LINE 2**

This field identifies Director information and prints in the closing section of the letter.

- **DIRECTORS SIG LINE 3**

This field identifies Director information and prints in the closing section of the letter.

2.4. Other Functionality

- A MailMan message will be generated upon completion of the postinit routine for patch PSO*7*145. The MailMan message will contain the following:

    1. The start and stop times of the job that creates the TPB ELIGIBILITY file (#52.91) and populates the TPB INSTITUTION LETTERS file (#52.92).

    2. The total number of patients included in the TPB ELIGIBILITY file (#52.91) that are eligible for the benefit.

    3. The total number of patients included in the TPB ELIGIBILITY file (#52.91) that are ineligible and excluded for the benefit.

    4. A list of patients identified as potentially eligible who could not be entered into the TPB ELIGIBILITY file (#52.91) because an institution was found for the patient, but a station number could not be identified for that institution.

    This MailMan message is delivered to the patch installer and to specific Office of Information staff who are responsible for reporting this information to a nationally designated representative.

- Patch SD*5.3*300 provides the logic to run at each local site that determines TPB patient eligibility. Eligibility is based on an EWL, Scheduling, and Pharmacy algorithm.